



The Air National Guard Band of the Southwest

By Captain Eric Patterson, 146th Airlift Wing

The 146th Airlift Wing's 562nd Air Force Band is a band in demand that has used its creative talents and musical language to bring cultural, political, and community understanding of the military to the world.

Also called the Air National Guard Band of the Southwest, it has established standards, and set a blistering pace, that ranks it as one of the outstanding military bands in the country. The

numerous high profile venues in Southern California. In addition, the band regularly performs for military functions, and, because the band's area of responsibility includes Arizona and Colorado, smaller ensembles such as the protocol combo, jazz ensemble, and brass quintet have performed in those states, as well.

In fiscal year 2002, the band and its ensembles performed more than 100 times and supported 212

bugling honors at military funerals. The band's high operations tempo is even more impressive considering that it's made up entirely of traditional reservists. The band's First Sergeant, Master Sergeant Roger Mason, says that the high operations tempo is due to the band's small ensemble program, managed by Senior Master Sergeant Roger Wallace.

In 2002 the band performed for two highly publicized military functions. The first was the All States Dinner at the conclusion of the National Guard Association of the United States' "Gold Rush 2002" conference in Long Beach. A second recent military venue was the band's December performances at the Air National Guard Senior Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado.

The Air National Guard Band of the Southwest also was a critical component of the Air Force's Total Force Band that led the 2003 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. The Total Force Band was a composite ensemble made up of musicians from active duty and Guard components of the United States Air Force.

The Air National Guard Band of the Southwest is more than a military band. It is comprised of very busy, patriotic musicians dedicated to protecting their country and generating understanding, hope, and inspiration to their fellow citizens in the Southwestern United States. 🐾



PHOTO BY SFC ROBERT PACK

562nd Air Force Band has performed for troops, political officials, military dignitaries, and community groups.

"I couldn't be more proud of the dedication and excellence of the band members," says Brigadier General John Iffland, Commander of the 146th Airlift Wing. "They are outstanding musicians and individuals." Similar praise comes from Major Patrick Jones, Chief of Air National Guard Bands. "The ANG Band of the Southwest provides exemplary musical products," Jones said. "Its concerts are fun and entertaining for everyone."

During the past year, the band has performed at